

### **Remarks/Argument**

The courtesy and assistance rendered by the Examiner during the personal interview conducted January 12, 2006 is acknowledged and appreciated. As agreed at that time, the requirement that the hash indices be combined by concatenation of pairs of indices as recited by claims 22, 24 and 26 has been incorporated into respective independent claims 1, 8 and 15 thereby patentably distinguishing the subject matter thereof over the art of record. As the language describing that the paired indices have a larger address space than each index individually as previously added is rendered superfluous by the concatenation requirement, the address space characterizing language has been deleted from the claims.

The claims are further amended to rephrase the structure functioning to combine pairs of index values from "combinational logic" to simply --logic--. While the undersigned disagrees that "combinational logic" either requires storage of a previous logic state to generate an output or that the phrase requires any particular signal or logic processing, the changes are made to avoid the issue and thereby advance prosecution without disclaimer or waiver.

In view of the Examiner's apparent withdrawal of the allowance of claims 13 and 14 and allowability of claims 6, 7, 19 and 20 (see Office Action of May 24, 2004, Paper Number 5, at page 9), those claims are rewritten to depend from claims 1, 8 and 15 each of which include the requirement to concatenate pairs of the hash index values by the present amendment.

The claims are further amended to include a reference in the body of the claims to the dictionary mentioned in the preambles thereof. For example, claim 8 reciting a method of "accessing a dictionary" now recites a step of "referencing indexed data stored in the dictionary corresponding to said [concatenatedly] pairwise combined hash indices."

Finally, as indicated by the undersigned during the interview, new claims 27-29 have been added directed to an aspect of the invention understood to confer patentability to the pending claims, i.e., the concatenation of pairs of hash indices. As this aspect of the invention has been searched, emphasized and the subject of discussions with the Examiner, it is urged that the new claims are properly presented for the first time herein and are allowable for the reasons given with respect to the other independent claims.

### **Response to Office Action**

#### **Specification**

The objection to the specification based on the use of the phrase “combination logic” in the claims is rendered moot by the present amendments to the claims deleting the word “combinational” therefrom. As discussed supra, although the undersigned does not concede that the phrase is objectionable or renders the claims improper, the change is made to advance prosecution.

#### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112, first paragraph**

The rejection of claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-19 and 21-26 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, is overcome by the amendments deleting the language found objectionable by the Examiner as outlined above.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112, second paragraph**

##### **Data Dictionary**

The Examiner takes the position that the claims are incomplete for omitting an essential element since the “data dictionary” recited in the preamble is not referenced in the body of the claim. In response, it is noted that the rejected claims are directed to a data dictionary comprising the structural elements or accessed by the steps recited in the body of the claim. Rather than clarifying the subject matter of the invention, it would appear circular to include what is being defined as part of the definition (i.e., the body of the claim). To the contrary, the claims are definite and clear within the meaning of 35 USC §112, second paragraph and withdrawal of the corresponding rejections is respectfully solicited in view of the amendments to the claims.

##### **“fill in all bit positions”**

While the language “fill in all bit positions” questioned by the Examiner is clear when read in consideration of the disclosure, to advance prosecution, this language has been deleted from the claims without disclaimer or waiver.

“pairs of indexes”

The amendments to the claims address the language found objectionable by the Examiner by adopting language discussed as appropriate during the referenced interview. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC §101**

In accordance with discussions at the recent interview, it was agreed that the present basis for the rejection of the claims under 35 USC §101 is improper in view of recent case law (e.g., the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences in *Ex parte Lundgren*) and clarifications or changes made to the U.S.P.T.O. examination guidelines. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC §§102 and 103(a)**

As understood the Examiner agrees that the art of record fails to teach or render obvious the pairing of hash indexes by concatenation as recited by dependent claims 22, 24 and 26. Accordingly, this limitation has been incorporated into the respective base claims which are thereby rendered allowable. Note that dependent claims 21, 23 and 25 requiring that the [concatenated] pairing be performed in lexicographical order are maintained, the lexicographical limitation not having been incorporated into the independent claims. It is further noted that the present amendments to the claims are made to advance and expedite prosecution and specifically without admission that the outstanding objection and rejections are proper. Applicant reserves the right to include claims of similar scope to those originally presented or otherwise supported by the present disclosure in the future and/or in one of more continuing applications without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice.

**Finality of the Outstanding Office Action**

Although the Office Action Summary (Form PTOL-326) accompanying the outstanding Office Action indicates that the Action is final, it is understood that this was a clerical error, there being no other indication that the Action is to be considered Final. This has been confirmed with the Examiner.

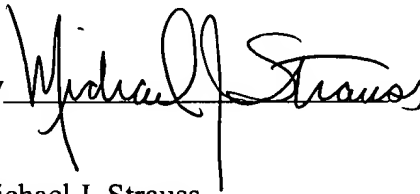
**Summary**

In summary, it is believed that all pending claims are allowable.

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this response. However, if any fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. 714.001/10108288 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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